



CalPERS EMPLOYER NEWS

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On the Cover

A scenic roadway in Carmichael, CA. Carmichael is a census-designated place (CDP) within Sacramento County. Carmichael Water District has been a CalPERS member since 1960.

This cover photo was taken by Robert Valenton, a CalPERS employee.



my|CalPERS Launched!

Take advantage of valuable online my|CalPERS resources to reduce wait times.

The new my|CalPERS system successfully launched on September 19! We know that we are all still getting used to the new system, and we thank you for your continued patience as we all begin using it.

Naturally, there will be a learning curve for users during the earliest stages of this transition, but over time, my|CalPERS will become even more intuitive. Since the launch of my|CalPERS, the CalPERS Customer Contact Center (CCCC) has been experiencing very high call volumes and long wait times. Please review available online my|CalPERS resources prior to contacting the CCCC. Visit the Public Employer Readiness Team section of CalPERS On-Line at www.calpers.ca.gov. These online resources include...

my|CalPERS News for Employers

Access the latest news, updates, and information about the my|CalPERS system.

my|CalPERS User Information & Tips

Access important information you should be aware of as you use the

system, including known issues and tips for using my|CalPERS.

Getting Started with my|CalPERS

Find out what you need to know once you begin using my|CalPERS. This document contains a checklist of activities, references to related resource materials, reminders, important dates to consider, and a Forms Transition Guide.

In addition to these available online resources, you can still register for specialized training on how to use the system by going to www.calpers.ca.gov/pert, navigating to the my|CalPERS Training page in the Training and Education area, and selecting the **Register Now** link.

As with the implementation of any large technology system, we are experiencing some challenges. We are working diligently to research and resolve issues we have identified and will be making scheduled system modifications. While we identify system issues, decisions are made daily to determine which can be addressed immediately and which



Going Green—You Can Help

CalPERS promotes environmental responsibility by providing digital publications, thus reducing the environmental impacts of printing, processing, and delivery.

We encourage you to “Go Green” by accessing employer forms and publications at:



www.calpers.ca.gov.

E-publications available include CalPERS Circular Letters, actuarial reports, and legislation information.



CalPERS Responds

Our site CalPERSResponds.com educates our employers, members, and stakeholders about emerging issues including pension security, investments, and health care.



CalPERSResponds.com.

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100%PCW / 100%PCF

Protecting the Financial Security of our Members

CalPERS ended Fiscal Year 2010-11 with a 20.7 percent return on investments and recently received Fitch Ratings' highest AAA credit score. We continue to carefully invest for the long haul and have successfully maintained a net return on investments of 8.4 percent for 20 years.



Written by CalPERS
Chief Actuary,
Alan Milligan

Disregarding the evidence that the CalPERS trust fund is sound, investing wisely, and meeting our goals, critics continue to charge that a discount rate of 7.75 percent is too high. They contend that this return rate is unrealistic and the CalPERS unfunded pension gap is much wider than stated.

Fuel for this unfounded claim is now being drawn from our decision to reduce the discount rate to 3.8 percent for inactive “terminated agency” pension plans. Some maintain this decision is CalPERS admission that 7.75 percent is too optimistic, and in the case of the terminated pool rate reduction, demonstrates greedy protection of our own funds.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The terminated agency pool is the investment umbrella for public employers that have opted out or been eliminated from the active pension program. These terminated agency plans no longer receive employer or member contributions, and are no longer accepting new members, but must still maintain funds to pay pensions of existing members.

Our decision to set the discount rate for the terminated agency pool at 3.8 percent is based on the prudent strategy of reducing risk by investing more conservatively. By investing more conservatively, CalPERS is protecting a fund that has no other source of income other than interest.

Though the terminated agency pool is now funded at 240 percent, one large new agency terminating its contracts with CalPERS could bring the funding level closer to 100 percent. This could eventually lead to a reduction in member benefits. For this reason, CalPERS has taken a more conservative investing approach that will provide a steady stream of earnings at a level that protects benefits for the long term.

.....
“Over the last 20 years,
approximately 64 cents of every
dollar paid in pensions has come
from investment earnings.”
.....

The CalPERS active pension fund receives contributions from employers and members, allowing for more aggressive, but still realistic, investment returns from a broadly diversified portfolio. Over the last 20 years, approximately 64 cents of every dollar paid in pensions has come from investment earnings with employers paying 21 cents and members 15 cents.

CalPERS is committed to investing for the long-term to protect member benefits. We continue to tailor investment strategy to the greatest benefit of our members, regardless of whether pension holdings are in active or terminated plans.

my|CalPERS Simplifies Earnings Monitoring

Monitoring employee earnings per the IRC 401(a)(17) earnings limit just got a whole lot easier with my|CalPERS system launch. Before my|CalPERS, monitoring each employee's earnings for the IRS limit (currently \$245,000) was performed manually.

After an employee reached this limit, employee contributions were no longer reported, while employer contributions continued. If an employee was hired during the fiscal year, you would begin monitoring for the limit at that point and notify CalPERS when the employee reached the limit with that employer. Because of system


limitations, earnings monitoring was confined to one employer at a time. However, my|CalPERS will monitor each employee for all the CalPERS covered employers they have worked for, relieving you of this task.

my|CalPERS will improve accuracy by automatically tracking earnings by each employee. The system will notify you when an employee reaches the limit. Once the limit is reached, the payroll will process only if the member contributions are stopped with employer contributions continuing to be reported.

This is great news for everyone since:

- The chance of over-reporting contributions will be reduced.
- Reporting of earnings limit will be easier to track.
- It is in compliance with the IRS.

This is just one of the many new beneficial features of the new my|CalPERS system. For more information on this and other my|CalPERS functions visit:


 www.calpers.ca.gov/pert.



my|CalPERS Training... Still Available

You may now register and start taking the training that will help prepare you for the new my|CalPERS system.

Even though my|CalPERS has already launched, it is not too late to take training. Webinar and instructor-led training sessions are scheduled through November 18. Computer-based training, which you can take at your convenience, will continue to be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Whether you directly contract for Retirement, Health, or CalPERS 457 Supplemental Income Plan, or you provide vendor support services to a public agency or school, my|CalPERS training is for you!

To register for training, simply go to  www.calpers.ca.gov/pert, navigate to the **my|CalPERS Training** page in the **Training and Education** area, and select the **Register Now** link.

After registering as a first-time user, you will be sent a confirmation code via email. Once you receive your confirmation code, return to the my|CalPERS Training Registration tool, enter your email address and the confirmation code, and select the **Log In** button.

You will then be able to register for specific courses, view your registration summary, and access your webinar and computer-based training.

Our my|CalPERS training will help you utilize the new my|CalPERS system to its fullest potential. Register now so that you can take advantage of all the new and expanded functionalities my|CalPERS has to offer!

New Retirement Contracting and CERBT Fund Agencies


CalPERS welcomes the following employers who signed with new contracts for the CalPERS Retirement Program and California Employers' Retiree Benefit Trust (CERBT) Fund during the 2011-12 Fiscal Year:

CalPERS Retirement Program

- Victor Valley Transit Authority
- Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District

CERBT Fund

- Diamond Springs/El Dorado Fire Protection District
- Westborough Water District
- Sunnyslope County Water District
- Reclamation District #1000
- Buena Park Library District

Visit  www.calpers.ca.gov for more information on the CERBT Fund and CalPERS Retirement Program.



CalPERS Online Health Care Tools

If your employees have questions about their health plan benefits and options, CalPERS can help! We have several online tools and resources to help our members find answers to questions like: Which doctor can I see? What services does my health plan cover? And, how do other members rate their health plan experiences?

Our Health Plan Chooser, 2011 Member Rating information, and other resources like the “Search by ZIP Code” function can help your employees make educated decisions. All are available online year-round, and may be especially helpful during Open Enrollment when people often consider health plan changes.

Several variables factor into selecting the right health plan. Making this extremely personal decision can be challenging; the best decision for one person or family is not necessarily best for another.

The Health Plan Chooser provides an abundance of centrally located information your employees can use to:

- Estimate out-of-pocket costs for each health plan
- Explore health plan options

- Access health plans’ Evidence of Coverage booklets, doctor directories, and medication formulary lists
- Review the services each health plan covers, and
- View overall plan satisfaction ratings.

Before deciding on a health plan, employees may also want to view detailed 2011 Member Rating information derived from our annual health plan member survey. Reviewing how other CalPERS members rate their health plan experiences can help your employees select a plan that’s right for them.

The 2011 Member Rating information provides member feedback of doctors, specialists, prescription drug access and customer service experiences. The “Search by ZIP Code” function helps



During Open Enrollment, employees can access the Health Plan Chooser, 2011 Member Rating information, and the “Search by ZIP Code” function through the Open Enrollment landing page found at:

 www.calpers.ca.gov.

Need More Help with Open Enrollment? Contact Us:

888 CalPERS
(or 888-225-7377)

TTY
(877) 249-7442

Health Account Services
Open Enrollment
P.O. Box 942714
Sacramento, CA
94229-2714

employees quickly and easily identify which plans are available where they live or work.

So whether your employees are looking for information about their current plan, or gathering information about another one, our resources are always available to help them make informed decisions.

CalPERS 2011 Health Plan Member Survey Results

Each year, CalPERS conducts a survey of its health plan members and their experiences with their plans. Reviewing how other CalPERS members rate their health plans can help your employees choose a plan that’s right for them. We also incorporate these results into our online decision tool, the Health Plan Chooser, so your employees have a single, convenient source for information about choosing a health plan. You can find the Health Plan Chooser

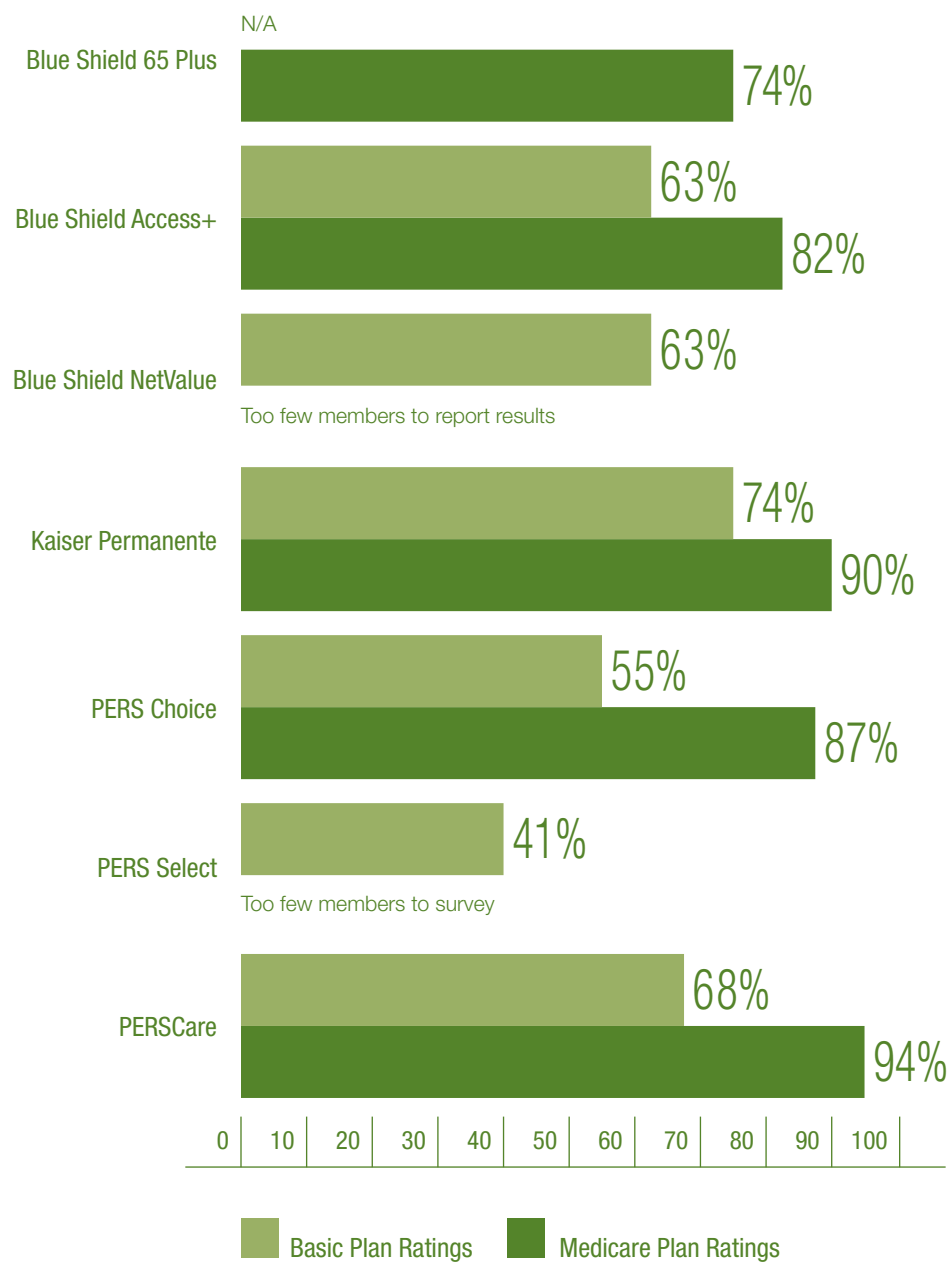
Overall Member Ratings of Health Plans

The chart to the right shows the percentage of members who gave their health plans an overall rating of 8-10 on a 10-point scale. Please note for smaller health plans, the number of members surveyed represents a larger percentage of the people covered by those plans, which results in a higher ratio of survey respondents to adult members served.

More Information

Your employees can view additional survey results, such as member ratings of health care, getting prescriptions, and customer service on the **2012 Open Enrollment** area of **CalPERS On-Line** at www.calpers.ca.gov or call our Customer Contact Center at **888 CalPERS (888-225-7377)**. Please note that your employees’ experiences may differ depending on their individual health care needs, expectations and behavior, and provider and treatment choices.

Note: Margin of error for Basic plans is +/- 4.9%; for Medicare plans is +/- 3.6%. This year, PERS Select did not have enough Medicare members to survey; Blue Shield NetValue did not have enough members to report results.



CalPERS Educational Forum 2011: PERT Features

Are you planning on attending this year's Educational Forum, being held October 24-26 at the Long Beach Convention Center? If so, be sure to take full advantage of everything the Public Employer Readiness Team (PERT) will have to offer! Our workshops, training sessions, and exhibit booth will help you experience the capabilities of my|CalPERS and our staff will be on hand to answer questions you may have regarding the new system.

We will be holding four sessions of the workshop, Navigating the new my|CalPERS. This informative workshop will provide you with a high-level overview of some of the unique features of my|CalPERS. We will show how easy it is to navigate through the system and demonstrate how to utilize the Online Help feature, access contract information, submit inquiries, generate reports, and much more.

In the my|CalPERS Training Room, we will hold mini training sessions throughout every day of the Forum. These mini training sessions are modified versions of our full

my|CalPERS training. The 60-minute mini training sessions will consist of short facilitated scenarios and provide time for questions and answers. They are perfect if you need a little refresher or want to have a preview of our full my|CalPERS training courses. The mini training sessions that will be offered at the Forum are:

- Payroll Contribution Reporting Overview for Employers
- Health Enrollment Overview
- Retirement Enrollment Overview

Also available in the my|CalPERS Training Room will be our computer-

based training (CBT) modules. You will have the opportunity to browse the modules while our staff is on hand to answer any questions you may have. New at this year's Forum will be one-on-one consulting sessions. These will allow you to chat with our staff on an individual level about my|CalPERS functionality.

Finally, be sure to visit the PERT exhibit booth, where you will be able to register for training, make changes to your contact or System Access Administrator information, and ask questions about the new system and our training opportunities.

For more information on CalPERS Educational Forum 2011, visit the Educational Forum section of CalPERS On-Line at:


 www.calpers.ca.gov.

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Continued from page 1

should be added to the existing my|CalPERS schedule of system revisions. Our scheduled updates will provide increased system functionality for multiple business processes and procedures.

We are excited about the road ahead and look forward to the new capabilities and enhancements my|CalPERS will bring to all of us. As always, we are committed to providing assistance and support as you transition to my|CalPERS.


For additional information, visit the **my|CalPERS for Employers** section in the Public Employer Readiness Team (PERT) area of CalPERS On-Line at  www.calpers.ca.gov.

Visit us online to learn more about this event, the workshops, and to register www.calpers.ca.gov

2011

CalPERS Educational Forum

October 24-26, 2011 Long Beach Convention Center
300 East Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, California



Blue Shield NetValue and PERS Select Offer High Value Health Care Options

During Open Enrollment, members often consider how well their current health plan satisfied their needs in the previous year and they may look to other health plans for a better fit. This Open Enrollment period, your employees may be interested in learning more about Blue Shield NetValue and PERS Select.

CalPERS worked with Blue Shield and Blue Cross (for PERS Select) to design these “high-performance network” plans which offer quality services without sacrificing value. Many of the doctors in these networks also belong to other, more expensive networks and your employees could be paying higher-than-necessary monthly premiums to see them. If their existing doctors are part of either the NetValue or PERS Select network, employees may find that these plans will offer equal or similar access, at a lower monthly premium. Members may also find other doctors in these plans with whom they would be just as happy.

Participating in these plans just got easier too. For 2012, Blue Shield expanded its NetValue coverage area, making the lower-cost option available to almost 15,000 members in Contra Costa County. Blue Shield also expanded access to NetValue in Los Angeles, Riverside, Orange, and San Bernardino counties by adding more providers. Also in 2012, PERS Select members will experience a rate reduction, making it more affordable than other higher cost options.

Our members consistently rate “low monthly premiums” among the top three factors when choosing a health plan. Whether purchasing health care for one, two, or three or more parties, monthly premiums for these two plans are consistently lower than those for their CalPERS Basic HMO/PPO counterparts.

While every CalPERS health plan offers quality and value, NetValue and PERS Select offer it at a lower cost, making

them exceptional 2012 options. If your employees are interested in learning more, they can find specifics about each plan and all our new health plan premiums at  www.calpers.ca.gov.



Connect With Us Online

CalPERS offers many ways to stay informed and engaged with us, including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and CalPERS eSubscriptions.

facebook

“Like” us on Facebook at facebook.com/mycalpers

twitter

See our Twitter page at twitter.com/calpers

YouTube

Check out our videos at youtube.com/user/CalPERSNetwork

CalPERS Webinars Offer Valuable Information

Do any of your employees have questions regarding the CalPERS retirement process? CalPERS is now offering webinars as a new, convenient educational tool in addition to our instructor-led and online classes.

Our next webinar “Planning Your Retirement” will be held on November 10, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Topics will include:

- CalPERS Programs
- Service Credit – how it’s earned and how to purchase more
- Retirement formulas and benefit factors

- Final compensation
- Retirement calculation – including survivor continuance and retirement options
- Cost-of-living adjustments
- Power of attorney
- Retiree health benefits
- Working after retirement

Space is limited; your employees can register for the “Planning Your Retirement” webinar at  www.calpers.ca.gov through our video center. Access the video center through the CalPERS On-Line home page (www.calpers.ca.gov) by selecting **View a CalPERS Video** in the **Online Services** quick links.

As part of our commitment to assist our members in their career path, we have also posted our recent member educational webinars to our video center. The webinars come complete with the slideshows, audio, and answers to the questions attendees asked during the presentations.

CalPERS Long-Term Care Program Offers Innovative New Benefit

Univita, the CalPERS Long-Term Care Program (LTCP) Third-Party Administrator, introduced a new Web-based tool for member enrollees in October to help them maintain their independence and provide their family members and friends the opportunity to participate in their caregiving in later years.

The *Univita Living* website provides independence assessments where members may determine their current levels of independence and options to maintain or improve that independence. *Univita Living* uses the answers from the assessments to provide personalized recommendations and expert advice, which they will then help members organize into an action plan to monitor their progress.

LTCP members will also find access to more than 200,000 providers of daily care, home modification, skilled nursing services and more on the website. The social networking aspect of *Univita Living* is a real boon to members. They

can give family, friends and caregivers secure access to their personal Web pages where there are options to post comments and observations, view updates and receive messages. It's a great benefit if you want to keep your loved ones involved, no matter where they live.

Univita Living will help make planning for the future or assisting a loved one with their care needs more manageable and help improve their independence as they age. If you have any questions or would like further information regarding Univita Living, please call (888) 547-4823 or email univitaliving@univitahealth.com.



Univita Living uses the answers from the assessments to provide personalized recommendations and expert advice.

For details on signing up for the *Univita Living* website contact Univita Living support at (888) 547-4823 or e-mail univitaliving@univitahealth.com.

ONE.

Visit www.univitaliving.com.

TWO.

Click the 'Sign Up' button in the upper right-hand corner.

THREE.

Select 'I am joining Univita Living through a sponsor/employer membership.'

FOUR.

Type 'CalPERS' in the search box (CalPERS is your sponsor).

FIVE.

Click 'Search.'

SIX.

Select CalPERS as your sponsor.

SEVEN.

Complete the account information as it appears on your CalPERS Long-Term Care Program, Schedule of Benefits.

Thank You From PERT

The Public Employer Readiness Team (PERT) would like to thank our business partners for assisting us in preparing for the new my|CalPERS system.

Your participation in training and file readiness activities, as well as your dedication to our partnership, helped us fine-tune our documentation, support processes, and functionality of the new my|CalPERS system.

Training for my|CalPERS started in May and we would like to thank everyone who took the time to attend our training sessions to learn how to use the new system. The feedback we received from those of you who attended our training sessions provided us with valuable information, which we utilized to make enhancements not only to our training materials, but to our courses as well. Our three types of training have given you the opportunity to take the training that best suit your learning style and business needs.

The vast majority of our business partners who have taken our computer-based training, webinars, or instructor-led training, responded that after completing training they felt confident that they would be able to perform CalPERS business activities using my|CalPERS. Additionally, we received many positive comments about our training, which helped reassure us that our business partners were ready for my|CalPERS. Here are a few comments we'd like to share with you:

"I appreciated the hands-on computer training so I can explore the new system.

Presenters were well prepared and knowledgeable."

"The webinar was very helpful. I thought working through each scenario was particularly helpful. The handouts provide great reference material."

"I was happy to see that CalPERS came up with a program that will actually make our jobs easier."

"The computer-based training is a good tool to familiarize users with the new system."

We would also like to thank all who participated in our file readiness activities. In particular, thank you to those who participated in our early test group. These test partners helped us conduct initial testing of the system to identify system defects prior to making the system available to all employers for testing purposes.

To all our business partners, we appreciate your partnership during this project. The support and hard work of every employer was integral in the development of my|CalPERS. Through your dedication and support, we were able to transition to my|CalPERS with confidence, knowing that you were ready to successfully utilize the new system when it launched on September 19, 2011.


*Additional my|CalPERS training is available! Register for webinar or instructor-led sessions by going to www.calpers.ca.gov/pert and navigating to the **my|CalPERS Training** page in the **Training and Education** area.*



Stay Informed With CalPERS Employer eBulletin

Stay up to date with the latest employer news by subscribing to **CalPERS Employer eBulletin**. You and your employees will receive a constant stream of information, sent straight to your email box as news is released.

Direct links to online **CalPERS Circular Letters**, Board of Administration information and other communications are attached to every eBulletin update, giving you and your employees direct access to additional information related to every posting.

To subscribe to **CalPERS Employer eBulletin**, go to **CalPERS On-Line** at  www.calpers.ca.gov and click on Sign Up for CalPERS Employer eBulletin under the Employers section.



Events of Interest

October 2011 through December 2011

October	17	Investment Committee, Investment Policy Subcommittee, and Risk Management Committee	CalPERS Headquarters Auditorium	400 Q Street, Lincoln Plaza North, Sacramento
	18	Benefits and Program Administration Committee Health Benefits Committee	CalPERS Headquarters Auditorium	400 Q Street, Lincoln Plaza North, Sacramento
	19	Board of Administration	CalPERS Headquarters Auditorium	400 Q Street, Lincoln Plaza North, Sacramento
	20	School and State Agency Employer Education Workshop on Disability	CalPERS Regional Office, Orange County	500 North State College Blvd., Suite 750, Orange County
	24-26	CalPERS Educational Forum	Long Beach Convention Center	300 East Ocean Blvd., Long Beach
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November	14	Investment Committee, Performance and Compensation Committee	CalPERS Headquarters Auditorium	400 Q Street, Lincoln Plaza North, Sacramento
	15	Benefits and Program Administration Committee, Health Benefits Committee, Finance Committee	CalPERS Headquarters Auditorium	400 Q Street, Lincoln Plaza North, Sacramento
		Public Agency Employer Education Workshop on Disability Retirement	CalPERS Regional Office, Sacramento	400 Q Street, Room 1821/1831, Lincoln Plaza East, Sacramento
	16	Board of Administration	CalPERS Headquarters Auditorium	400 Q Street, Lincoln Plaza North, Sacramento
		School and State Agency Employer Education Workshop on Disability Retirement	CalPERS Regional Office, Sacramento	400 Q Street, Room 1821/1831, Lincoln Plaza East, Sacramento
	17	School and State Agency Employer Education Workshop on Disability Retirement	CalPERS Regional Office, Sacramento	400 Q Street, Room 1821/1831, Lincoln Plaza East, Sacramento
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24-25		Thanksgiving Holiday, State Offices Closed		



Employer Education & Events

CalPERS offers educational workshops to assist you in meeting retirement program requirements. Visit **CalPERS On-Line** at  www.calpers.ca.gov.


December	12	Investment Committee, Investment Policy Subcommittee, and Risk Management Committee	CalPERS Headquarters Auditorium	400 Q Street, Lincoln Plaza North, Sacramento
	13	Benefits and Program Administration Committee, Health Benefits Committee, Finance Committee	CalPERS Headquarters Auditorium	400 Q Street, Lincoln Plaza North, Sacramento
	14	Board of Administration	CalPERS Headquarters Auditorium	400 Q Street, Lincoln Plaza North, Sacramento
	26	Christmas Holiday, State Offices Closed		

Note: Meeting announcements and workshop registration information are published on our website and through the Circular Letter process when they become available. Meetings are subject to change.



Mark Your Calendars

Health Benefits Open Enrollment

Please remind your employees the 2011 Health Benefits Open Enrollment period began October 10, 2011, and ends November 4, 2011. Early submissions of Open Enrollment transactions help ensure timely processing of health plan identification cards and proper payroll deductions. For more information visit CalPERS On-Line at  www.calpers.ca.gov.

my|CalPERS

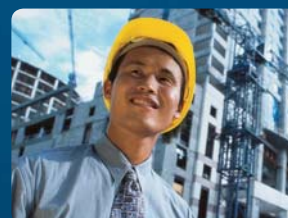
2011 — The Year of my|CalPERS

my|CalPERS launched September 19, 2011.

The CalPERS Public Employer Readiness Team (PERT) is here to help you transition post-launch. Our website contains up-to-date information and resources including:

- Getting Started with my|CalPERS
- my|CalPERS User Information & Tips
- my|CalPERS News for Employers
- my|CalPERS Training
- And more!

Visit www.calpers.ca.gov/pert



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